

Annex 4

Revised ACT Work Plan

	Management Mechanisms	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Success Measure	Level of Achievement
1	Roles & Responsibilities of Governments	<p>Primary responsibility for land use planning and management in the ACT lies with the Department of Urban Services. Environment ACT is the conservation arm of Government within Urban Services. Environment ACT manages the bulk of the nature conservation estate directly and coordinates delivery of off-reserve conservation programs. Canberra Urban Parks and Places has carriage of supporting programs in the urban environment. Planning and Land Management group administers the <i>Territory Plan</i> and the <i>Land (Planning and Environment Act) 1991</i>.</p> <p>The Commonwealth retains management and planning authority for land defined as <i>National</i>. Substantial biodiversity values are present on broadacre areas of National Land and Memorandums of Understanding between Territory and Commonwealth agencies are in place to provide for their conservation.</p>				
1.1	Community involvement in program delivery	Maintain support for community-based consultative forums and on-ground action groups that address ecologically sustainable land management issues. Examples include Landcare and Parkcare groups, Greening Australia, and the Conservation Council for the South-east Region and Canberra.	Environment ACT, Canberra Urban Parks and Places, community-based stakeholders	Continuing programs	NHT support for facilitation and coordination resources maintained; continuing community participation	<p>Community database under development. It will provide a comprehensive information resource on numbers participating, programs being undertaken and program outputs.</p> <p>Equivalent of 12.4 persons dedicated to coordination/facilitation of community-based land management activities.</p> <p>110 active community and environment groups supported and approximately 3,500 active volunteers excluding schools</p>
1.2	Expert reference and consultative forums	Maintain support for expert reference and consultative forums that provide advice on nature conservation issues. Examples include the Environment Advisory Committee, its sub-committees, and the Flora and Fauna Committee.	Environment ACT	Continuing programs	Adequate facilitation and coordination resources	<p>Secretariat and financial support maintained for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Advisory Committee • Nature Conservation & Namadgi Sub-committee • Landcare Sub-committee • Flora and Fauna Committee <p>Grant maintained for Conservation Council.</p>
1.3	District implementation plans	Develop and undertake implementation Plans for land management districts, to address in a coordinated way the range of vegetation management commitments identified in Reserve management plans and Action Plans for threatened species and communities.	Environment ACT	10/99 continuing as an annual program	Implementation Plans in place for management districts within 12 months of a Reserve management plan being adopted	Program ongoing. All management districts have an annual Implementation Plan in place covering 60% of ACT
1.4	ACT Nature Conservation Strategy	Ensure continuing implementation of vegetation conservation initiatives adopted in the ACT Nature Conservation Strategy	Environment ACT	Continuing program via annual Strategy Implementation Plan	Strategy Implementation Plan reflected in business plans, work programs and work practices as relevant	2000-01 Strategy implementation Plan in place.

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		Review ACT Nature Conservation Strategy in terms of progress in achieving conservation objectives	Environment ACT	7/01	Relevant report and new Implementation Plan	Review of Nature Conservation Strategy programmed for completion by 7/01
2	Planning & Assessment					
2.1	Impact assessment guidelines	Establish Fauna and Flora Guidelines to guide assessment of land development proposals on biological resources. These guidelines will identify significant biological resources in the ACT and provide guidance on how they should be considered in the planning process. The guidelines will be based on strategies to conserve the ACT's biological resources.	Planning and Land Management group	To be programmed for 01-02 - subject to allocation of resources.	Incorporation into planning processes of conservation requirements of significant species and ecological communities	Unable to be developed under current program.
2.2	Vegetation data management and mapping	Extract, interpret, collate and digitise relevant vegetation data consistent with NVIS requirements.	Environment ACT	12/00	Vegetation data management methodology standardised; hard copy vegetation map produced	NVIS data extracted, digitised and delivered 9/00. Vegetation map programmed and conforming to existing timelines
2.3	Environmental weed assessment	Progressively map distribution of priority weed species in protected areas and associated public lands. Report on control input and evaluate management effectiveness.	Environment ACT	Annual program	Decline in priority weed abundance in areas subject to control action Annual program and reporting	Produced, and distributed maps of 5 priority weed species, annual refinement required. Base maps prepared. Annual report completed for the year 2000.
2.4	Vegetation management planning	Develop and implement a comprehensive tree management and protection policy for the ACT that will bring together existing policies in one document, identify policy and coordination gaps and priority actions to be implemented.	Environment ACT	June 2001	Government adopts policy directions and priorities	Proposal adopted 8/00. Government has agreed in principle for policy initiative
2.5	ACT Weeds Strategy	In accordance with principles and policies set out in the ACT Weeds Strategy, determine an annual program of weed control for priority species in predetermined areas; assess control	Commonwealth and Territory Government land managers, rural lessees, community	Annual program	Development of a coordinated weed program	A weed working group has been established with community representatives to determine weed priorities

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		effectiveness of each years program.	interest groups		Preparation of Management Plans for all declared pest plants in the highest priority categories.	Management plans for 8 declared species (of the 38 Categories 1&2 that required management plans). A progressive program.
2.6	Evaluation of urban ecological assets	A survey of urban open space vegetation condition and habitat value was undertaken during 1998-99. Assessment of the ecological significance of assets identified will be undertaken to allow management requirements and priorities to be developed.	Canberra Urban Parks and Places, Environment ACT	6/01 – subject to funding priorities	Assessment completed and management measures being developed	Activities currently meeting timelines.
2.7	Management of threatening processes	Determine the most effective mechanism for identifying and providing for the coordinated management of ecological threats. Statutory processes are available, but an alternative approach may be more productive.	Environment ACT, Flora and Fauna Committee	01-02 for substantive project completion	A preferred mechanism or combination of mechanisms is identified for each threatening process	Activities currently meeting timelines. Framework for ecological threats and management almost complete.
2.8	Regional Conservation Strategy	In consultation with NPWS combine data with NSW to assess regional context and prepare regional conservation strategy (will feed into RFA)	Environment ACT,	June 2001	Completion of Strategy	3 NHT grants doing survey work. Last grant will fund drafting NHT funded surveys implemented
2.9	Ongoing vegetation survey	Proactive implementation of ongoing vegetation survey	Environment ACT,	Ongoing	Degree to which survey information is incorporated into planning process	Area mapped for planning processes to 90%
2.10	Develop & implement GIM strategy	Develop and implement GIM strategy	Environment ACT DUS corporate	01/02	Vegetation elements receive high priority Adequate resourcing	Core data set recognised Progressive identification of data gaps for programmed collection.

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3	Reserve System	Over 50% of the ACT is reserved as wilderness area, national park or nature reserve with specified management objectives for environmental conservation. Management plans are a statutory requirement. There is little scope for significant expansion of the ACT reserve system other than in terms of discrete sites containing critical habitat or other values of special significance. Application of off-reserve conservation mechanisms and responsible town planning is the preferred approach.				
3.1	Management Plans	Prepare management plans for all areas of Public Land with native vegetation values present. <i>Note: public land used in the statutory sense</i>	Environment ACT/Canberra Urban Parks and Places, ACT Forests	Continuing program	The degree to which public land with native vegetation values have a management plan in place	Management plans are in place for 7 of the 8 protected area management units and all urban parklands. Multi-use native forests (5,000 ha) are being managed for conservation, but formal management plans not yet in place.
4	Communication & Capacity Building	Environment ACT participates in a range of community-based programs that include native vegetation conservation in their operational objectives. Typical examples are Parkcare, Landcare, Waterwatch and catchment management groups. Capacity building programs for land managers, such as Prograze and Farming for the Future, are also supported and facilitated. In partnership with the community and with a view to fostering a strategic approach to catchment management, Environment ACT has produced an integrated catchment management framework for the ACT and guidelines for sub-catchment management planning. Supportive Commonwealth funding is a feature of many of these programs.				
4.1	Vegetation information and advice to rural landholders	In conjunction with development of Land Management Agreements for new rural leases, ensure all lessees are provided with relevant information on the native vegetation present and its management requirements.	Environment ACT	1/00 ongoing	The number of rural lessees that have a LMA in place	9 Land Management Agreements in place of 160. A number of others under development. All will have relevant native vegetation management information provided. It is anticipated that all will incorporate the information. This process recently commenced and could rapidly increase in response to incentives on offer. It is expected that all rural leases will have a LMA in place by 2006.
4.2	Environmental awareness strategy	Develop a strategic framework for a targeted and coordinated approach to the delivery of environmental information and awareness-raising programs initiated by Environment ACT.	Environment ACT	Draft by 1/01	Environmental awareness strategy in place	Development program on line.

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4.3	Integrated catchment management planning	Facilitate and promote the development of sub-catchment management plans.	Environment ACT & other Govt agencies, community stakeholders	Continuing program	Adequate facilitation and coordination resources; the degree to which sub-catchments in the ACT have a management plan under development or in place	Three plans (or equivalent) in place. Several community planning aids under development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> catchment health indicators monitoring techniques contextual resource data
4.4	Natural resource management leadership	Facilitate and coordinate design of Building Regional Capacity – natural resource management short course.	Environment ACT, Commonwealth	Pilot project complete 11/00	Pilot project assessment leads to full program implementation	Program on line, pilot project has been completed
5	Incentives	The ACT administers a range of environment grant schemes initiated by the ACT Government or as devolved elements of NHT programs. Greening Australia operates as a partner with Government or in its own right on a number of grant programs directed at vegetation conservation. Key Government administered programs are identified below.				
5.1	Financial assistance for off-reserve conservation	Implement Rural Conservation Fund to provide financial assistance for conservation of natural resources on leased rural land.	Environment ACT	5/00 ongoing	Rural Conservation Fund continues and attracts positive lessee interest	Inaugural grants announced 9/00.
5.2	Environment grants programs	Continuing support for grants program for environmental conservation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT Environment Grants Program ACT Riparian Restoration Program Bushcare in the Bush Capital other NHT funded programs 	Environment ACT	Ongoing annual programs	Grant funding program continues, level of 'new' ACT financial contribution NHT funding received	Rapid Stream Assessment Program commenced Environment Grants ongoing 2000-2001 NHT funding in the order of \$1M announced – consistent with previous year's allocation.
5.3	Foster ecologically sustainable management of leased rural land.	New policies for administration of leased rural land provide for extended lease terms in designated areas. Concessional arrangements are available to lessees, including a discounted valuation of land for rental buy out purposes and special financial arrangements for rental buy out. The goal of these incentives is to provide greater security of tenure wherever possible, and promote a partnership between Government and lessee in achieving sustainable use of the land for agriculture and securing a high level of nature	Planning & Land Management group.	1/00 ongoing; special conditions will be phased out after 18 months.	The degree to which new lease arrangements are taken up	Strong interest from rural community. 9 new long term leases granted.

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6	Regulatory Mechanisms	<p>The <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> protects native plants and animals throughout the Territory. It also provides for the identification and declaration of threatened species and ecological communities. A conservation Action Plan must be developed in response to each declaration.</p> <p>The <i>Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991</i> requires each new rural lease to have a Land Management Agreement attached. Land Management Agreements set out how the land is to be managed in a sustainable way. Conservation of native vegetation must be addressed.</p> <p>The Territory Plan specifies, among other things, land use objectives, controls and policies relating to environmental matters (www.palm.act.gov.au/tplan). The non-urban area land use policies are of particular relevance (Refer to Parts B10-B14 of the Written Statement). Part C1 of the Plan (Overlay provisions) identifies the purposes for which public land is reserved. For instance a (Pa) on the Territory Plan indicates that public land is reserved for the purposes of a wilderness area.</p> <p>The Territory Plan specifies that a mandatory preliminary assessment (impact assessment) be prepared for all proposals involving vegetation removal or destruction of greater than 0.5 ha of remnant vegetation.</p>				
6.1	Recovery plans for threatened species and communities.	Prepare conservation Action Plans as a management response to each declaration of a threatened species or ecological community	Environment ACT	Continuing program; currently all declared species and communities have an Action Plan in place	<p>The degree to which declared species and communities have an Action Plan in place</p> <p>The degree to which recommended conservation measures are incorporated into all urban and district implementation plans</p>	<p>Declared species and communities all have Action Plans in place</p> <p>There is a three year rolling program of review , doing 8 reviews on average. Progress demonstrating high level of incorporation of conservation measures in first year.</p>
6.2	Property management agreements	Establish Land Management Agreements as an effective tool for ecologically sustainable management of rural leases.	Planning & Land Management, rural lessees, Environment ACT	1/00 continuing	Number of Land Management Agreements developed .	Scheme operational. Six LMAs in place. A number under development
7	Monitoring & Evaluation					
7.1	Monitoring of vegetation	Implement a biodiversity strategy, incorporating existing vegetation monitoring programs	Environment ACT	12/00 Monitoring program designed	<p>Adoption of monitoring of biodiversity strategy</p> <p>Data collected in accordance with annual program</p>	<p>Draft prepared</p> <p>Ecological survey program – annual review. 100% implemented in accordance with the annual program.</p>
7.2	Monitoring of	Include a monitoring component in grants	Environment ACT,	5/00 continuing	Practicable and useful	Standardised landholder monitoring component has

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	environment grant outcomes	provided by the Rural Conservation Fund to enable agreed conservation outcomes/outputs to be assessed.	rural lessees, Greening Australia	program	monitoring techniques developed	been agreed. Provides a basic record of program outputs and some record of conservation outcomes.
7.3	Vegetation data management	Develop a GIS-based reference source to fulfil routine reporting and public information needs. Include baseline vegetation attributes.	Environment ACT	6/01 Parameters established; continuing refinement	GIS FAQ system in place	Programmed – yet to commence.
7.4	Land Management Agreement performance	Work in consultation with LMA stakeholders to monitor activities and outcomes agreed in LMAs	Environment ACT, rural lessees	Continuing program of liaison and scheduled formal reviews	The degree to which compliance issues arise	A new process, still at introductory phase.
7.5	Monitoring Urban Parks native vegetation management	Ensure contract specifications for urban parks recognise native vegetation requirements, and are complied with. Compliance regularly monitored	Canberra Urban Parks & Places	Continuing contract management program	The degree to which compliance issues arise	Effective contract management program in place